

THENAPA DISSEMINATION YEAR

Lithuania

During the dissemination year of the THENAPA project, the main products which made great impression were the “ADAPT” CD-ROMs. They were mainly used in disability sport clubs and nongovernmental institutions of the disabled in Lithuania, as learning material for higher education students, as teaching material for PE and primary education teachers working with disabled pupils.

To the outcome of THENAPA results could be attributed the legal decision - the order of Lithuanian minister of education and science (2004/02/17, No. 219) to include the study program in APA (bachelor and master degrees) in Lithuanian higher education for the training of professionals in the areas of physical, psychological and social rehabilitation for disabled (*of course, it is not fully in the line of THENAPA recommendations to recognize the APA profession, but it is the beginning of such recognition in future*).

As an outcome of dissemination of the Summary of the THENAPA Integration and Vocational training reports within Lithuanian universities two universities already introduced (in 2004) the new study programs, connected with APA activities, and one foresaw to implement it in the next year.

The Senate of Siauliai University accepted and introduced the new study program on Master degree in ‘*Adapted Physical Education*’ for teachers of physical and primary education.

Kaunas technological University accepted and introduced the new study program on Bachelor degree in ‘*Adapted engineering*’ where some modules of disability sport, adapted physical education and empowerment of disabled are included.

The new study program in “*Adapted Physical Activity*” on Master degree was created and submitted to the Authorities of Vilnius University in order to introduce the course in the next year of study.

According to the fundamental profile of APA specialist’s training, proposed in the THENAPA summary ‘Vocational training in APA’, were made the amendments in already existing ‘*Study program of APA*’ at the Bachelor degree level, accepted by the Senate of Lithuanian academy of physical education (LAPE) in 2004.

As results of the THENAPA project the new modules were created and included in other study programs in LAPE:

the module (3 credits) ‘*Social welfare and integration of disabled through physical activity*’ was included in the study curriculum for training professionals in ‘Social pedagogy’;

the module (4 credits) ‘*Social integration of disabled and APA*’ was included in the study curriculum for training Physical education (PE) teachers;

the module (2 credits) ‘*Sports for disabled*’ was included in the study curriculum for training Coaches.

The **internal evaluation** of THENAPA products (*Summaries on integration and vocational training and CD-ROM*) was made by the staff of the department of APA together with representatives of other departments in LAPE and some conclusions and recommendations was suggested at the beginning of 2004:

- * It was concluded to use the recommendations of the Summary of Vocational training for: 1) recognition of training qualification in APA by the authorities of Lithuanian ministry of education, 2) inclusion the appropriate modules regarding APA as compulsory in

training programs of physical education teachers, coaches and social pedagogic in LAPE; 3) proposition to the other Lithuanian universities to create the new study programs in APA on the basis of THENAPA results;

- * It is recognized that written and visual information of CD-ROMs are useful for preparation of teaching materials in APA and for making use as learning material by students of LAPE. Less useful information could be that proposed in the summary of chapter 2, because there are a lot of specific medical ideas, conceptions and notions from different areas of pathology and diseases that require a lot of study time to be clarified for students and are necessary for preparation of medical professionals.

The **external evaluation** of THENAPA products shows that:

- * Lithuanian ministry of education has evaluated positively and paid attention on THENAPA results and legally recognized the study program of APA in higher education;
- * Three Lithuanian universities on the basis of THENAPA results implemented or have the intention to implement APA study programs for training of professionals working with disabled population. It shows that external evaluation by some universities was positive;
- * The external evaluation of CD-ROMs information was made by coaches and teachers from sport clubs and special schools during two meetings at the beginning of 2004. It was concluded: 1) the material of CD-ROMs are useful for teaching/training purposes but 2) it is necessary to translate the written material to Lithuanian language and 3) it would be desirable to tender the list of proper video-films for more visual information in each chapter of CD-ROM.

What activities took place during the dissemination year of THENAPA:

1. 2004.01.21 was organized the meeting (conference) of staff (7 persons) of APA department and representatives of other 7 departments as well as 2 persons from the administration of Lithuanian Academy of Physical education (LAPE). During the meeting all three THENAPA products were submitted, discussed and internal evaluation was made.
2. 2004.02.12 was organized the meeting (conference) in Lithuanian Special Olympic Committee with coaches from 9 Special Olympic sport clubs and teachers as well as administrators from 10 special schools for mentally disabled (*participated 25 persons*). During the meeting all visual and written information of CD-ROM 'ADAPT' was submitted, discussed and the external evaluation was made. CD-ROMs were distributed among the institutions.
3. 2004.02.27 was organized the meeting (conference) in Kaunas Sport and recreation club of disabled with the coaches, representatives and members from 10 sport clubs for physically disabled (*participated 28 persons*). During the meeting all visual and written information of CD-ROM 'ADAPT' was submitted, discussed and the external evaluation was made. CD-ROMs were distributed among the institutions.
4. Lithuanian representatives of THENAPA personally delivered and shortly presented Summaries of the THENAPA Integration and Vocational training reports to the Ministry of education and to five Lithuanian Universities situated in different towns of Lithuania (Siauliai, Vilnius, Klaipeda, Kaunas).
5. Lithuanian version of written material of CD-ROM 'ADAPT' was distributed (by post or E-mail) among 15 disability sport clubs on September 2004.

Target groups (*students, teachers, coaches, advisors, users of the community programs, in-service teacher educators, university academic staff and administrators, national authority staff*) acting in different areas of social services in Lithuania (*higher education, special education, youth, nongovernmental sport clubs for disabled, national authorities*) already used or would be able to use in future the THENAPA products for learning and teaching purposes, creation new study curriculums and modules or making amendments in already existing ones as well as for preparation of legal documents in the area of physical activity for disabled or for coordination of the activities of social policy for disabled according to the social model of disability recommended by European Commission.

The outcomes of the THENAPA project in Lithuania show that:

1. one of the main target of the project – to train the APA professionals on modern European level – is more or less achieved because:
 - some Lithuanian universities created new or perfected the existing curriculums in APA according to THENAPA recommendations and recognized as useful and used the CD-ROMs written and visual materials for teaching and learning purposes in the process of training;
 - Lithuanian ministry of education officially included the study programs of APA in the system of higher education;
2. another target of the project – to integrate the disabled into society using the various kind of physical activity – is not achieved yet in Lithuania despite THENAPA recommendations, because:
 - the traditional medical model of disability still legally exists in Lithuania despite the ‘New Community strategy of disability’ in EU (1996);
 - the conservative Lithuanian Governmental institutions still enable the medical and other professionals to put away the disabled from physical education, treat them as less able than able bodied to perform sport and recreational activities and discriminate the disabled in that fields;

The recommendations of the THENAPA project, made on the ground of three years serious investigation of social policy in the field of APA in 22 European countries, compose the substantial basis for European Commission (EC) to externalize the International opinion and recommend the Governments of EU member countries: 1) to recognize the physical education as inseparable part of general education of every disabled person, 2) recognize the disability sport as an important mean of social rehabilitation and integration of disabled and 3) to ensure the same rights and opportunities for the disabled in disability sport area as it is in able-bodied sport.

According to us, such an efficient reaction of EC on THENAPA results would frame the great added value of the Project, because the recommendations of EC could induce the Governments of EU Member states to make the reform of national disability policies in the field of physical education and sport for disabled.

The transnational work during the execution of THENAPA activities gave us the possibilities:

1. to compare the Lithuanian social policy on disability, achievements and difficulties in the area of APA with the ones in other European countries;
2. to use the good examples of integrated physical education and disability sport practice existing in some European countries and try to implement them in Lithuania;
3. to use the international connections between European universities for development of students mobility activities in the areas of theoretical and practical goals of APA studies;
4. to use the interpersonal and interuniversity contacts for development of European scientific research programs in very broad area of APA.

The partnership between European universities participated in THENAPA, with no doubt, will be sustained due to development of students mobility activities and international scientific research programs in the field of physical activity for disabled;

The implementation of the Project results in vocational training of APA professionals in Lithuanian higher education system will be not only sustained and developed in future, because more than 20% of Universities (*four of all fifteen*) recognized the THENAPA results and Lithuanian ministry of education included the APA study programs in general system of higher education.

